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TITLE: Scalable distributed file system

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Detailed Description Text - DETX:

The INODES 440 store pointers to the user data, sizes of files, data formats, dates, and the like. The directory information 450 stores user file names, and their equivalent system names or numbers. The user data 402 can be organized as sequential, relational, or object oriented files for example. In one implementation, the file system supports about 16 million files although this limit is easily changed by changing some of the boundaries between the address ranges.

Detailed Description Text - DETX:

The disk driver 120 includes the capability to make full dumps of the file system as "snaphots." The disk server allows a client to create an exact copy of a virtual disk at any point in time. The snapshot copy appears identical to an ordinary virtual disk, except that it cannot be modified, i.e., the snapshot is identified as read-only. The implementation uses copy-on-write techniques for efficiency. The snapshots are crash-consistent; that is, a snapshot reflects a coherent state of the virtual disk.